

Year in Review

Victim Service Programs 2011

STATE OF ALASKA, DEPT. PUBLIC SAFETY

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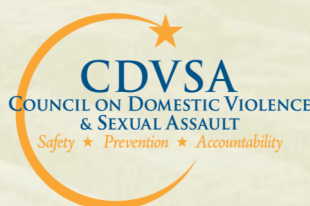
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\$10,811,880 dollars went out to community-based nonprofit programs to provide safe shelter, advocacy, and personal support to those fleeing domestic violence or who experienced sexual assault, and to provide community Education, raising awareness and reducing tolerance for these crimes.

95,413 nights of safe shelter

for 2,240 adults and 1,594 children



More than 200 staff members kept programs open around the clock, twenty-four hours a day seven days a week to ensure safe refuge and help their communities develop strategies for creating peace.

3,533 people volunteered 95,698 hours of service, which is 58% more people and 75% more hours than in Fiscal Year 2010.

OUTCOME MEASURES

3,035 program participants across the state voluntarily responded to two questions asked to measure outcomes of their interactions with Council-funded programs.

92% said they knew more or different intervention safety strategies than they did prior to the interaction.

92% said they knew more about resources and help available to themselves and their families and how to access those resources.

ALASKA FAMILY SERVICES - MAT-SU

In FY 2011 AFS began working with a local tribal group to provide SART training to advocates from each program in preparation for starting a SART program to serve the Mat-Su Valley. The Mat-Su Valley has been without a SART team for a number of years and survivors of sexual assault have had to be transported to Anchorage in order to receive a SART exam. Re-establishing a local SART program is a high priority for AFS and they are encouraged by their collaboration with Tribal family services in their area. The planning group is currently working on how the program would be funded and administered.

AFS also reports successful cross-systems collaboration between OCS and state housing programs. Collectively, this work assisted one program participant's reunification with her children who had been in state custody and the placement of five families into safe, permanent housing in the community.

AFS continues to be a growing and vibrant service that senior centers, churches, federal and state agencies, and others continue to access for referrals and for services for their clients.

AFS' support groups and community dinner program continue to

be huge successes allowing for victims and survivors to connect, share experiences and network in a safe neutral environment.

AFS identified overcrowding as an on-going challenge throughout FY11, noting that their 32-bed facility was often at or over capacity.



Santa and Her Elves

ADVOCATES FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

On March 31, 2011, AVO staff along with over 200 residents of Valdez joined 50 other Alaskan Communities to "Choose Respect" and end domestic violence, sexual assault and child sexual abuse in Valdez and throughout Alaska.

AVV celebrated 30 years of service in FY 2011. The milestone was celebrated during their annual membership meeting in June and was reported to be "simple but powerful" with former program participants, staff, volunteers and board members attending the celebration. Other program highlights from 2011 include AVV's

campaign to promote Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention. The February activities kicked off with the reading and signing of a proclamation by the City Council. AVV reports that this was the first time a teen dating violence proclamation had been created in Valdez. AVV reports that the project had the

full backing of the City Council and Valdez High School. Activities included interactive high school presentations, a booth on healthy relationships at the high school where over 100 youth signed a pledge to respect their dating partner, and a community sponsored teen dance, themed "Love is Respect".

ABUSED WOMEN'S AID IN CRISIS

With the current housing market, the length of stay has increased and finding transitional or permanent housing options for our participants has become more of a challenge. The shelter was over capacity for 213 days (58.3%) this year but staff was still able to provide quality services

as indicated by quality service evaluations.

Two different grants have allowed us to hire 1.4 new legal advocates and to retain a full time case management position that would have otherwise been lost.

This year we had numerous successful fundraisers in-

cluding two Uncork'd fundraisers, an "Aid to AWAIC" lunch event, and the annual Petroleum Wives Club Gala.

This year, AWAIC was able to work with a group of teens at Romig Middle school to develop a teen dating violence education video, which was shown to every student at Romig.



Choose Respect Rally

AIDING WOMEN IN ABUSE AND RAPE EMERGENCIES

AWARE has reached steadily more women and children in the last 4 years – In this time we have seen a 6% increase in women and a 5% increase in children utilizing shelter services.

Our SART collaboration with JPD and with the local Hospital is going well. We have almost completed an inter-agency Policy and Procedure manual for SART.

This year AWARE hired a new Children's Counselor, AWARE has already seen incredible successes as a result!

AWARE's outreach and prevention

work is successful. We are supporting the Fourth R curriculum in schools throughout Juneau. At their request, we have provided coaching trainings for Girls on the Run to coaches in Sitka and Ketchikan. The fall 2010 and spring 2011 seasons offered 230 girls the opportunity to run, 80 women the opportunity to coach, and 17 schools the opportunity to embrace the Girls on the Run mission and enjoy its positive impact! Two notable projects involving youth were the community mural, and a teen kayak trip to Glacier Bay.

This year we made 13 trips to our 9

rural communities. Rural services and the strength of our rural projects is significantly enhanced with the consistency of AWARE staff.



AWARE Youth Kayaking Trip to Glacier Bay

ARCTIC WOMEN IN CRISIS

This year AWIC continued to encourage and support the development of community based and initiated activities that build on and celebrate com-



DVAM at AWIC

munity strength. We collaborated with our community partners and worked together to identify and reduce barriers to services and to provide resources to meet the needs of women and children who have been affected by sexual assault and domestic violence.

AWIC co-sponsored the NSB Village Health Fairs, which were particularly successful this year, with record turnout. The story board which illustrated the effects of domestic violence on children and families was particularly well-received.

AWIC's outreach this year also included radio shows, special efforts to recognize father's day and paternal bonds, efforts for Dating Violence Awareness Month, a *Choose Respect* walk, and numerous other efforts.

This year AWIC implemented the *Steps to Respect* and *Second Step* evidence-based programs to assist staff, teachers, families, and elementary students in reducing bullying and creating a safe and respectful environment.

BERING SEA WOMENS GROUP

High turnover at the CAC, OCS, the hospital, and Social Services has adversely affected service provision in Nome. BSWG also has experienced high staff turnover, due to burnout and due to BSWG wages growing less competitive in Nome. However, Norton Sound has hired an excellent full time SART Coordinator, and BSWG has hired a new Children's Coordinator and a new Lead Advocate, and both look to be

good.

Nome's Choose Respect event was very successful, with 90 attendees vs. last year's 1.

Inclement weather often prevents victims from being transported from the villages to the hub city of Nome. Fortunately we have 7 safe home representatives in some of the villages where victims can stay until they can be sent out.

There is very limited low income housing and regular rent is exorbitant. Food goes up weekly and utility costs are extremely high. This year, BSWG's utility budget rose from \$28,000 to \$40,000 a year. Property taxes went up 43% and day care is limited and expensive. If a client chooses to relocate he/she loses his/her support system and may often be re-victimized in a more urban setting.

CORDOVA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Cordova Family Resource Center has seen another successful year of school presentations and activities. A Peer Resource Class has been offered as an elective at the Cordova High School. More than 300 students marched in the Choose Respect rally. We provided mandatory reporting and DV training to all school district staff.

The Peer Helper program for the 7th and 8th grade is continuing to be successful. Youth from this program became leaders in our community among their peers. They held monthly activities involving 7th and 8th grade youth providing information about topics such as: Teen dating, bullying, cyber-bullying, domestic violence, sexual assault, self-esteem and

know your age just to mention a few.

CFRC has been working with other agencies to provide safety and outreach. CFRC has been undertaking continued outreach to the Latin population within Cordova, and we have had successful visits to surrounding villages. This year we held our third Annual Latin Dinner.

INTERIOR ALASKA CENTER FOR NON-VIOLENT LIVING

We worked with the UAF Residence Life Program to Host Sexual Safety Awareness week on Campus.

We began meeting with our Community Coordinated Response Team (CCR) and examining cases to discover areas that law enforcement and prosecution needed to be aware of and address.

We trained 2 staff members in the 4th R Curriculum to work with our local school district. One met the requirements to be a Master trainer and will begin training others in our community on the curriculum.

IAC worked with our own local community and two outlying communities to host a "Choose Respect" Rally on March 31. The Rally in Fairbanks was well attended and was used as the kickoff to sexual assault awareness month.

IAC's DART team has met consistently and focused on creating a survey to examine the areas that the team needs to focus on. This survey was sent out to the community and agencies that serve the disabled to get their input and opinions. With this information we will begin crafting

our PSA message to the community.

IAC continues to have success in placing individuals in housing with the 5 programs that focus on housing in addition to the Section 8 and low income housing options in Fairbanks

IAC was able to gain a new legal advocate, giving us two, thanks to funding through the Council.



Demonstrators Against Domestic Violence in Fairbanks

KODIAK WOMEN'S RESOURCE AND CRISIS CENTER

KWRCC, in partnership with Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) and Providence Kodiak Island Counseling Center (PKICC) was granted one of the state's collaborative grants. Our project is called Turing the Tide. This is making it possible to reach a broader span of people Island-wide with our Green Dot (Kodiak Chooses Respect) campaign. PKICC has received a new counselor that is working with KWRCC's clientele, and this has been a huge success. Also, advocates are receiving more support

when they have questions regarding how to be supportive of clients who have mental health or substance abuse barriers.

KWRCC continues to successfully collaborate as a part of SAFTEE and the Homeless Coalition.

KWRCC continues with our Immigrant Women's programming. Having a new outreach advocate focused on immigrant populations has led to a marked increase in our immigrant population accessing services.

KWRCC continues to receive funding through a sub grant with Sunaq tribe to fund a Native Sexual Assault Outreach/ Advocate. This new program at the agency has taken the lead in the work of reconstructing a SART team in Kodiak.

Due to some staff turnover, extra money was able to do some much-needed maintenance projects including painting, fixing bathrooms, and new beds and mattresses.

THE LEESHORE CENTER

In Fiscal Year 11, LSC saw a 17% increase in the number of resident women and children. They also experienced increases in crisis calls (55%) and safety check calls (9%). They reported that the largest increases by far were in requested legal advocacy services (125%) and protection order assistance (100%). LSC also observed increases in the number of presentations to schools on healthy relationship/Violence prevention education. In 2011 they provided 151 presentations to 3066 youth.

LSC notes that some of the bigger projects accomplished during the fiscal year included: remodeling the shelter kitchen (new floor, cabinets, paint, etc); installing a new security fence; installing new energy efficient windows throughout the facility; re-insulating the main sewer line and re-paving the parking lot. Funding from the Rasmussen Foundation also allowed them to replace two main boilers at the transitional housing facility.

LSC also conducted their community wide Agency Survey in 2011. The survey measures area wide beliefs

surrounding domestic and sexual violence, awareness of services and service satisfaction. Four hundred and forty-six community members participated in the survey. Survey results are used to inform public awareness strategies, outreach efforts and areas of needed program improvement.



The LeeShore Center

MANILAQ FAMILY CRISIS CENTER

MFCC has helped victims create numerous wonderful success stories this last year.

There continues to be more need than there is funding, and it does not appear that this trend will change anytime soon. MFCC focuses its efforts on as many of the immediate needs as possible and then works on being proactive and putting things in place that will allow for provision of better and additional services. With

limited staff, MFCC provides what it can.

Awareness of services is a big issue, and education is important. We have distributed flyers as well as posting notices at numerous locations throughout Kotzebue.

Isolation and remoteness is also a challenge. Many people do not seek or receive adequate services because they live in remote locations. We brought another staff onboard to work

more closely with the "outreach" part of our program. She has redefined our safe home policies as well as working with the safe homes on training issues. We also started a training effort with the village based advocates on safety issues (lethality assessment). In doing this, we established a relationship that will allow us to more closely work with the villages and hopefully provide additional services to the victims.

SAFE AND FEAR-FREE ENVIRONMENT

SAFE has been able to jump into the CANDU Project Partnership with both feet. This collaborative project takes an innovative and comprehensive approach to ending intimate partner violence in Dillingham and Bristol Bay in our lifetime. This project has, among other things, funded a full time Alaska Legal Services attorney position stationed at the SAFE shelter, with primary responsibility of providing civil/legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and related crimes.

SAFE has seen a small (10%) increase in the number of adults

served compared with FY10, but it has seen a large increase in the number of services provided, from 19 to 29 services per person served. This documents the growing complexity of the issues facing crime victims in our region.

SAFE has had difficulty maintaining enough sufficiently qualified staff. We offer competitive pay and benefits, but several jobs remain open without applicants. Creating a Child Care Cooperative at SAFE has helped us retain staff with young children.

SAFE oversaw numerous successful youth and outreach projects this year, including the Summer Youth

Services & Culture Camp, the Community Mural Project, and the Peer Mentoring & Tutoring Project. The new MySpace Youth Wellness Center successfully serves 10-15 different youth each day.

SAFE's SISTER (Safety In Sobriety Through Recovery) and MOMS program continue to be successful. MOMS is an FASD prevention and early intervention program that provides child care and support services to mothers and custodians of young children in treatment.



Participant in Tony's Run

SEAVIEW COMMUNITY SERVICES

This year, after acquiring some new staff in December, we were able to “Think smarter and not harder” and garner a strong diverse community-based coalition on successful DVSA awareness education, outreach and collaborative support throughout the Seward community and service area.

Seaview’s DVSA program held several fundraisers this year and host-

ed the first annual Chocolate Tasting Fundraiser. This event was held in the atrium at SCS. Domestic violence and sexual assault facts were placed around the atrium. Many people who read the facts were astonished and surprised. DVSA held quarterly Advisory Committee meetings this year. The members of the Advisory Committee consist of the police department, medical

doctors, Qutekcak Native Tribe, District Attorney’s office, and Seward community members. DVSA staff trained Senior Center staff and were invited to present information to the elders during a senior lunch. SCS ended the year by raising awareness, handing out bumper stickers all over the Eastern side of the Kenai.

SITKANS AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

SAFV strives to meet the needs of everyone who calls or walks through our door. About 60% of our residents are Alaska Native and we have begun to see an increase in Spanish speaking residents as well as victims from the Pilipino community. We have also been serving people with a variety of physical and mental disabilities. SAFV hires advocates with a wide variety of backgrounds and diversity. Our Native staff help teach the rest of us about cultural differences. Staff speak several languages including sign language, and we utilize community volunteers for translation as needed. There will always be challenges in finding enough translators or getting

proper equipment in a timely matter, but staff always does their best to provide appropriate accommodations and treat everyone with respect.

We are noticing this year that less women come to shelter and the ones that do come to shelter have multiple issues, stay considerably longer, and return more often. Our shelter nights continue to rise, while the unduplicated number of women we serve is slightly decreasing. Our community also has a great need of affordable housing. It takes three to six months for a person to get into public housing and most of our residents cannot afford regular housing. We also continue to see the legal system not hold perpetrators accountable.

Many women don’t call the police anymore because they know that nothing will change, so why bother.



Sitka Girls on the Run
Participants and Coaches

SOUTH PENINSULA HAVEN HOUSE

Haven House reports continued success in outreach to Russian Old Believer community, persons with significant mental health issues as well as women with chronic substance abuse and trauma histories.

Haven House continues to successfully collaborate with a variety of community based services to support women who suffer co-occurring conditions and multi-layered trauma as a result of being victimized by domestic and/or sexual violence. In FY 2011, Haven House was awarded a grant from Mental Health Trust for a therapeutic garden and

greenhouse to assist program participants in their healing. In addition, Haven House spearheaded community events to identify the correlation between substance use and domestic violence. Haven House is coordinating with the community substance abuse agency to cross train staff and better coordinate services between agencies for victims surviving co-

occurring conditions. Haven House incorporates a safe and sober support group for program participants and community members and reports that this group is thriving.

With support from Haven House, two program participants with co-occurring conditions were able to move out of shelter and into safe housing.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST RAPE

STAR has been successful this year at providing support and legal advocacy to victims and their loved ones.

STAR has a collaborative contract with the Alaska Native Justice Center to provide intensive case management services to those clients who are deemed, for a variety of reasons, to be at extremely high risk of re-victimization. In exchange, ANJC has a Social Worker to provide counseling services.

STAR is a member of a multidisciplinary team, involving law enforcement, forensic medical professionals, Office of Children's

Services, prosecutors, and other social service agencies providing services to victims of crime. This year, STAR has recently redesigned its website to provide a great deal more information to the community and victims of crime, so they are aware of our services, as well as those provided by our collaborators.

Direct Service Advocates are contacted by the US Attorney and FBI Victim/Witness Coordinator to assist victims of federal crimes, as needed. Advocates assist with victim interviews, support them while preparing to testify, and are available to escort

them to trial proceedings. Direct Service Advocates support sexual assault victims who are inmates of correctional facilities, some of whom are prosecuted under federal laws.



Classroom time with STAR!

TUNDRA WOMEN'S COALITION

This year, TWC staff were educated on the issues of institutional racism and its effects on services and we are identifying areas that need to be improved within systems and agencies in light of this education.

One of TWC's greatest successes this year is its ability to provide services with such a limited number of staff. Our staff are dedicated and hardworking, but we need more of them to assure safe staff-resident ratios. The fact that so many people seek assistance from TWC speaks to the agency's reputation in the region.

We have successfully collab-

orated with the CAC, and with our SART team this year. TWC's relationship with Violent Crime Compensation has improved considerably in the past year.

Rising cost of fuel oil, health insurance, worker's comp, and travel are putting stress on TWC. We will need funding increases in order keep up with the cost of living in Bethel.

Our children's advocate provided over 20 groups for child victims of sexual abuse and children exposed to domestic violence this year.

The legal advocate and an interpreter coordinated closely with the senior center for a presentation and helped at least 4 elders they referred later with protective orders.

UNALASKANS AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

As a result of insufficient wages, USAFV still struggles to keep its full-time positions filled. In FY11, one position was open for six months. If staff could be paid more, it would provide more stability for our program, enable us to do more outreach and education, and ultimately ensure better services for survivors and their children.

Since our location is so remote, travel costs also use up a signifi-

cant portion of our budget.

Despite staffing challenges, USAFV has sponsored countless prevention and outreach activities, including participation in the Annual Health Fair, screening of two movies, a "Choose Respect" community awareness potluck, 5 radio interviews, and storytime with activities at the Public Library.

We have been successful at organizing collaborative partnerships,

including the Unalaska Interagency Cooperative, as well as with our regional Tribal organization and with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to coordinate training to regional Village Public Safety Officers as well as to local service providers, including medical providers, behavioral health providers, recreation coordinators, emergency medical responders, and local employers.



VICTIMS FOR JUSTICE

We provided 1626 advocacy services to more than 300 individual victims, and more than 3,000 advocacy services to more than 400 (non-offending) family members of victims. We had good turnout and media coverage for all of our events this year, including the Monument Ceremony event in the fourth quarter.

We have been very successful in assisting our clients with VCCB applications, and we have a good

working relationship with the Violent Crimes compensation board members and staff.

VFJ collaborates with the local rape crisis center, the domestic violence shelter, the victims rights agency, the compensation board, and local, state and federal law enforcement and prosecutors. We sit on the Anchorage Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Caucus. VFJ works with the victim witness staff of the FBI and the US Attor-

ney's office on all federal cases involving our clients.

We hosted 6 local events for victims, their families and victim service providers. Attended by more than 300 people, and well covered in the press, these events raise public awareness of the plight of victims in our community, and help new victims to know where to turn.



Victims for Justice River Walk

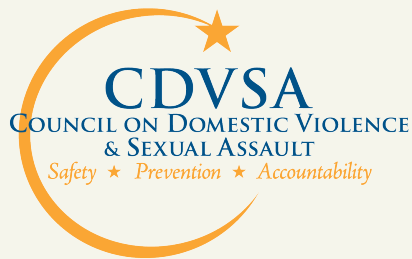
WOMEN IN SAFE HOMES

This year has been very positive for WISH. We have physically improved the shelter, replacing flooring, repairing lighting and windows, and getting new mattresses. WISH staff continue to be creative with a lack of space and limited resources and are excited about the new prevention building on Tongass Avenue and a new shelter in the near future.

The number of support groups offered for the WISH children's program doubled over the past year. Summer and after school programs were developed for young children and youth. WISH has had some excellent long term volunteers begin this year, from VISTA and SAGA.

In the fall of 2010, WISH staff piloted the youthLEAP

(Leadership Enrichment Arts Program) in the community. The Youth and Outreach Coordinator worked in classrooms and after school at Ketchikan Charter School and the Ketchikan High School, and he worked with adults and families during the KIC Culture Camp in the summer of 2010.



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In Fiscal Year 2011, victim service programs were funded in part through permanent fund felon/misdemeanant funds; Victims of Crime Act; Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; Sexual Assault Services Program; Sexual Assault Prevention; and Alcohol Tax dollars.

State funds, VOCA and FVPSA require matching funds from the programs. A 15% match was in effect for State Funds, and 20% for VOCA and FVPSA Funds. Programs used in-kind donations and cash to provide \$2,259,533 in actual match funds.

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Program Coordinators monitor and provide technical assistance to all Council-funded programs.

Below are the Council's Coordinators and the victim service programs for which were responsible in FY 11.

Linda Hoven

AWAIC

AWIC

IAC

MFCC

SAFE

STAR

TWC

USAFV

Ann Rausch

AVV

CFRC

LSC

SPHH

AFS

SAFV

VFJ

Lauree Morton

AWARE

BSWG

KWRCC

SCS

WISH